

Draft Copy

COA Meeting Notes

March 11, 2015

Kevin called the meeting to order at 10:35 am. Members present: Kevin Rudden, Earl Pearlman, Carol Kotros, Mary Ann Hopkins, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson Kent. Friends' members present: Lou Meroli, Nancy Jenkins, Dick Skinner, Tom Irons and President, Sue Carlson. Van driver, Bob Gebelein was also present. Bob Carlson arrived at 11:00 am.

The Secretary, Treasurer and Director's reports were all unanimously approved. During discussion of the director's report, Kevin suggested bringing up purchase of either a snow blower or electric shovel again in September since winter is almost over and stores are sold out of these items.

Sue Carlson presented the Friends' report. She showed us the application for the Friends' scholarship for seniors who have volunteered at the senior center. She is looking for Book Fair volunteers, especially for April 9. She is also looking for three more ads for the newsletter. Lowell's and Royal Thermal View were mentioned as showing interest in the past. The Friends approved up to \$300 for light switch replacement in the basement previously approved by the COA.

Old Business

Food Pantry—Carol reported 22 clients and six home deliveries this month. They are in need of paper bags.

Staffing & Budget Update—after the Feb 6 Fin Com meeting, Kevin spoke with BOS expressing displeasure with results of Fin Com meeting. As a result, BOS asked us to include in our budget request what we need for additional hours. They cannot guaranty anything, but at least it will go on record that we requested it. BOS also acknowledged that Director position might merit a salary increase due to the position having many facets, in many centers covered by another person. This came about as a result of Amy's interview with the BU representative hired by the town. Earl made a motion that we request in order of priority: 1) 5 additional hours for Director, 2) increase Outreach worker by 10 additional hours and 3) hire Admin Assistant/Transportation Coordinator for 18 hrs/wk @ \$13.65/hr. Ann seconded. All approved. Amy mentioned that per 2015 census, senior population increased from 1000 to 1300. Due to time constraints, age 70 population is not being serviced by Outreach unless they contact us. At this point, Earl made a motion that Amy and Kevin meet with Chief Horn and Assistant Fire Chief to discuss outreach efforts and how it may affect the number of 911 calls. Carol seconded. All approved.

Front Door—handicap door is in. Came with wrong window which will be changed. Friday, March 20, push buttons will be installed. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held in the spring. Earl made a motion to approve \$2375 from COA gift account as COA's portion of the handicap door donated in memory of Bill Carter and Art Holmes. Mary Ann seconded. All approved.

Annual Report—is completed and was submitted to BOS.

Volunteer Appreciation—Amy has spoken with Karen Wheet. One suggestion is chicken/broccoli alfredo. Board members thought this sounded good.

#### New Business

Senior Tax Abatement Program—Town Administrator asked if the senior center would consider taking this over. Before deciding, we have to see if the town will continue to fund this and if so, how much. Some board members felt this would be a way to assure that we get the coverage we need. Others felt taking this on was contradictory to requesting more hours and coverage. We will gather more information and make a determination after ATM.

Open Forum—Dick Skinner suggested removing snow from gazebo roof at same time as building roof. Amy said fire dept shoveled our roof because we are a Red Cross Shelter. It would have to be a volunteer for the gazebo. Dick also mentioned that Friends approved up to \$200 to replace the three older outlets in the kitchen with modern ground fault plugs and this needs COA approval. Earl made a motion to this effect. Bob seconded. All approved.

Kevin reported that the scout who wanted to build a raised bed around the sign out front has found another project.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Cc: Jim Negri

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary